

Appl. No. 10/092,579  
Amdt. Dated July 11, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended): A method for providing a proxy service in a computer network, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) receiving a request to access a device from a client,
  - (b) ~~determining the a~~ path to the device,
  - (c) ascertaining what firewall rules exist for that given path, ~~and~~
  - (d) redirecting the client to the appropriate proxy, if any is needed, for that path, by sending a redirect message to the client which informs the client of the address to which to request itself, and -
  - (e) enabling the request received by the client to communicate with the device.
2. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining step comprises the step of using a network inventory to describe the devices that are to be considered by the proxy.
3. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining step comprises the step of using device attributes apart from ~~the a~~ native device IP address to select the device.
4. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining step comprises the step of using an inventory of devices to distinguish devices that have IP numbering or network conflicts.

Appl. No. 10/092,579  
Amdt. Dated July 11, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2005

5. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining step comprises the step of using physical topology information to determine ~~the~~ a location of ~~a~~ the device.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining step comprises the step of using physical topology information to determine and discriminate between non-routable networks with conflicting address information.

7. (Cancelled): ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining step comprises the step of using physical topology information to determine and discriminate between non-routable networks with conflicting address information.~~

8. (Original): The method of claim 1 further including propagating path information to proxies.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1 further including authenticating for the client.

10. (Original): The method of claim 1 further including authenticating between proxies.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including informing the remote proxy server of ~~the~~ a client address.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including informing ~~the~~ a remote proxy server of the destination address.

13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including determining ~~the~~ a remaining path to be traversed for a given proxy.

Appl. No. 10/092,579  
Amdt. Dated July 11, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2005

14.(Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including a means of making proxy paths recursive.

15. (Original): The method of claim 1 further including creating a communications channel between proxies.

16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including having an HTTP protocol request go from the client to ~~the~~ a destination.

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including having an HTTP protocol response go from ~~the~~ a destination to the client.

18. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein when ~~the~~ a service is performed, appear to ~~the~~ a destination as coming from the source.

19. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 16 further including maintaining authentication between client and proxy after ~~the~~ an HTTP request has been completed.

20. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17 further including maintaining authentication between proxies after ~~the~~ an HTTP request has been completed.

21. (Cancelled): ~~The method of claim 1 further including creating a communications channel between proxies.~~

22. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including having a TCP request go from the client to ~~the~~ a destination.

23. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 further including having a TCP response go from ~~the~~ a destination to the client.

Appl. No. 10/092,579  
Amdt. Dated July 11, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2005

24. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein when the service is performed, appear to ~~the~~ a destination as coming from the source.

25. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 22 further including maintaining authentication between client and proxy after ~~the~~ a TCP request has been completed.

26. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 23 further including maintaining authentication between proxies after ~~the~~ a TCP request has been completed.